

WELSH OFFICE OF HEALTH
1957

**RHAYADER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1957

Members of the Council

Year 1957

Chairman : Alderman E. T. K. MORGAN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : R. P. L. HUGHES, C.C.

Councillors :

D. H. Bound

Lt. Col. J. L. Philips,

O. P. Davies

D.S.O., J.P.

R. E. P. Jones

A. H. Price

I. J. Lewis

C. H. Price

S. E. Lloyd

J. C. Price

J. F. Mills

J. T. L. Price

G. D. Morgan

W. A. Probert

A. E. Oakley

A. Thompson

T. J. Owen

J. D. Williams

Committees

Public Health and Housing—All members of the Council

Chairman : Alderman E. T. K. Morgan

Finance—All members of the Council

Chairman : Cnr. C. H. Price

Medical Officer of Health

J. D. O'M POOLE, M.B., Ch.B.

(General Practitioner and part-time M.O.H.)

Public Health Inspector

G. H. ROBERTS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(Cert.—S.I.E.J.B. and Meat and other Foods of R.S.I.)

BRYNCOED
RHAYADER
18th July, 1958

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RHAYADER

Sirs

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and health services in the Rhayader Rural District during 1957.

The spring of the year afforded some very pleasant periods of sunshine but as the year advanced the conditions became wetter with no long periods of sunny weather. We had some severe rainstorms at the latter end of summer and there were some incidents of flooding.

In June the water supplies were augmented by the new main from the Birmingham Aqueduct, otherwise we had no difficulties with our water supplies. The Penybont and Llandegly Water Scheme was started during the year and the Nantmel extension to the School was completed. Plans were finalised for the extension from the Llandrindod main to the St. Heliers district.

It is satisfactory to note that considerable advantage has been taken of the state aided schemes for private supplies to farms.

Further progress was made on the sewerage scheme for Rhayader.

Work continued on the Cwmduddwr housing site. The Clearance Area in Gwaryffordd, Newbridge, as mentioned in my last report, had advanced to such a state that work had started on houses scheduled for alternative accommodation.

Concerning infectious diseases, during November and December the incidence of measles assumed the proportions of a minor epidemic, fortunately all cases were mild.

I am appreciative of the help and co-operation given me by all the officials of the Council, and I am grateful to you, Sirs, for your assistance and encouragement.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. O.'M. POOLE,
Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District	...	...	...	...	...	91,240 acres
Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	4,220
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,268
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£85,751
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£353

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Radnorshire, with a density of population of one person to 15 acres, is the most sparsely populated county in England and Wales. Rhayader has a lower density than this at one person to 21 acres. It is not surprising, therefore, that the most important industry is agriculture and in fact about 40% of the population are engaged in, or dependant on farming.

Forestry is a growing industry and each year sees more hilltops ploughed and planted.

The beautiful Elan Valley continues to attract tourists and catering is now quite an important industry, particularly in the summer months.

The annual rainfall of the British Isles is generally taken as averaging 30 inches. As is to be expected, our rainfall is higher than this and the figures for 1957, and some previous years are listed below :—

Year	Total Rainfall	Percentage of Long Average
1957	51.62	107
1956	44.38	92
1955	43.02	90
1954	59.23	123
1953	38.71	81
1952	45.61	95
1951	53.80	112
1950	51.80	108

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The district is served by one part-time Medical Officer, a Surveyor and one Public Health Inspector. A Rodent Operator is shared with Knighton Rural District Council.

Six nurses provide a home nursing service.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Aberystwyth, carry out analyses of milk, water and histological examination of diseased animals slaughtered at the local abattoir. I am grateful to Dr. Sudds and her staff for their ready assistance.

Chemical analyses are done by the County Analyst, Carmarthen.

Post-natal, mothers and childrens welfare clinics are held monthly.

Clinics are available at Llandrindod Wells for Tuberculosis, and at Hereford for Venereal Disease. The Chest Physician holds a weekly clinic at Llandrindod Wells.

There are no hospitals in the district but hospital services are provided at Knighton, Llandrindod Wells, Shrewsbury, Gobowen, Birmingham, Llanidloes and Aberystwyth. The facilities include the services of specialists in all branches of Medicine and Surgery.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

	Male	Female	Corrected Rate per 1,000	Approx. Rate for England and Wales
Live Births				
Legitimate	... 43	24		
Illegitimate	... —	1		
	43	25	20.5	15.5

Still Births

Legitimate	...	—	—	
Illegitimate	...	—	—	
	—	—	—	0.3

Deaths

All causes	...	27	21	12.7	11.4
Of Infants					
Under 1 month...	—	—	1		
Under 1 year	...	—	1		

Birth Rate and Death Rate in previous years

(Corrected, per 1,000)

Year	Births	Deaths
1956	16.5	14.5
1955	22.0	11.1
1954	15.9	11.2
1953	15.2	11.4
1952	19.5	10.7

Causes of Death

		Male	Female
Syphilitic disease ...	...	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	—	1
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	3	3
Diabetes ...	...	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	3	5
Coronary disease, angina	...	2	3
Other heart disease	...	6	5
Other circulatory disease	...	1	—
Influenza ...	...	1	—
Pneumonia	...	1	—
Bronchitis ...	...	3	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	—
Congenital malformations	...	2	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	1	2
Motor accidents ...	...	1	—
All other accidents	...	1	—
		27	21

PREVALENCE OF DISEASE

Notifiable Diseases

		No. of Cases Notified
Measles	...	48
Pneumonia	...	6
Phthisis	...	1
		—
	Total	55

Tuberculosis

Number of cases on Register :

	Female	Male
Pulmonary	5	8
No Pulmonary	1	2
	—	—
	6	10

New cases notified—1 male pulmonary

Immunisation—Diphtheria

		Number
Under 1 year	...	26
Age 1 year	...	1
Age 2 years	...	—
Age 3 years	...	—
Age 4 years	...	—
Age 5-9 years	...	2
Age 10-14 years	...	—
Age 15 years	...	—
		—
		29

Whooping Cough Innoculations

		Number
Under 1 year	...	25
Age 1 year	...	1
Age 2 years	...	—
Age 3 years	...	—
Age 4 years	...	—
Age 5-9 years	...	2
Age 10-14 years	...	—
Age 15 years	...	—
		—
		28

Vaccinations

		Number
Under 1 year	...	18
Age 1 year	...	2
Age 2 years	...	1
Age 3 years	...	—
Age 4 years	...	—
Age 5-9 years	...	1
Age 10-14 years	...	—
Age 15 years	...	3
		—
		25

Poliomyelitis

Number of children who received injection ... 128

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Details of Inspections

		Visits	Re-Visits	Total
Rural Housing Survey	...	39	27	66
Allocation of Council Houses	...	97	10	107
Inspections for Statutory Purposes:				
Housing Acts	...	12	34	46
Public Health Acts	...	2	24	26
Rent Act	...	10	10	20
Inspections for Informal Action re:				
Stopped/Defective drains	...	68	73	141
Sanitary defects	...	33	36	69
Sewer connections	...	16	52	68
Water supplies—public	...	2	—	2
—farms	...	13	5	18
—other houses	...	36	22	58
Drains inspected	...	20	62	82
Infectious diseases	...	10	—	10
Factories—power	...	6	2	8
—non power	...	1	3	4
Animals so kept	...	1	1	2
Offensive refuse, etc.	...	6	10	16
Rats and Mice—general	...	40	13	53
—sewers	...	18	4	22
Other pests	...	5	—	5
Sewerage disposal plants	...	11	—	11
Inns, cafes, etc.	...	43	38	81
Bakehouses	...	2	—	2
Milk supplies	...	58	4	62
Food Shops	...	17	—	17
Petroleum regulations	...	23	5	28
Slaughterhouse for meat inspection	197	—	—	197
In connection with				
Improvement grants	...	6	—	6
Hill Farming grants	...	24	18	42
Miscellaneous visits	...	24	—	24
Interviews	...	22	—	22
		862	453	1,315

No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	126
" "	in which no action was taken	...	...	...	5
" "	remedied by informal action	...	...	...	116
" "	" " statutory action	...	...	...	1
" "	not yet remedied	...	...	...	4

Housing

Public Health Act—Section 92 (Nuisances)

No statutory action was taken under this Act during the year, but a notice served in respect of housing defects during 1956 was complied with during the year 1957.

Housing Act

Statutory action was taken for the closing of one house. The owner gave an undertaking not to use the house for human inhabitation, this was accepted by the Council.

Work started during the year on the erection of new houses in conjunction with the clearance area of seven houses in Newbridge-on-Wye.

Factories Act

There is one non-power and 22 power factories in your district. 7 visits and 5 re-visits were made to these in the year.

Destruction of Rats and Mice

Mr. A. E. Allen, your rodent operator, continued to work full-time in the winter and half-time in the summer for this Council and Knighton Rural District Council. This amounts to 12 weeks in winter and 6 weeks in summer for each Council.

Inspections and treatments are as follows:—

Total No. of properties inspected	...	270
" " " " treated	...	86
" " " " visits and re-visits	...	879

Meat Inspection

The Council continues to operate a public slaughterhouse. This is used regularly by three butchers but a fair number of casualties, mainly sheep, are brought in off the farms.

	Cattle other than cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No killed	56	6	4	678	53
No. inspected	56	6	4	678	53

Condemnations

All diseases except

T.B. and Cysticerci

Whole carcases	—	—	1	6	—
Part carcases	30	—	—	126	2
Percentage affected	48%	25%	—	18%	4%

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases	—	—	—	—	—
Part carcases	1	—	—	—	1
Percentage affected	2%	—	—	—	2%

There were no cases of cysticercosis.

The weight of meat condemned was approximately 565lbs.

For comparative purposes the killing figures for some previous years are as follows:—

	Cattle not cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1956	33	2	11	705	23
1955	13	3	7	446	65
1954		44	21	1262	83
1953	59	12	20	1410	82
1952	62	18	55	1594	51
1951	68	14	51	1893	49
1950		96	39	2325	26

The meat trade was freed from controls in 1954

Milk Sampling

30 samples were taken for bacteriological analysis and 3 for fat content. In order to check on the efficacy of bottle washing I also took three samples of empty bottles prior to filling.

In five instances the bacteriological samples were not satisfactory.

There are three dairies on the Council's register of dairies.

Ice Cream

There are no premises manufacturing ice cream in the district. All ice cream is sold in prepacked wrappings and no samples were taken for analysis.

Other Foods

The numbers and types of food premises in the district are

Grocers	...	...	39
Butchers	...	...	5
Public Houses	...	...	22
Bakehouses	...	...	4
Hotels...	...	...	20
Cafe's, restaurants	...	...	6
School Canteens	...	...	11

Total 107

There are no premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act.

No lectures were given or any other educational activity on food hygiene.

Condemned food, other than offal etc., from the slaughterhouse, is buried on the Council's refuse tips. If the food is very offensive it is burnt in a local furnace. 62lbs. of tinned foodstuffs were condemned and destroyed.

Offal etc., from the slaughterhouse is sold to the local Hunt where it is used for feeding the hounds.

Water Supplies

Public

No shortage occurred during the past year and samples were taken regularly from all sources.

The Nantmel main was extended to the School. The Penybont and Llandegley scheme was commenced and a project to extend the Llandrindod main along the Crossgates road was well advanced.

Private Water Supplies

Grants are given by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the Hill Farming Act and Livestock Rearing Acts, for the installation of piped water supplies etc.

A considerable amount of work has been done on farm improvements and water supplies in this area and in the past seven years some 118 supplies have been investigated. Of these 71 were approved and the works completed, 26 are not yet completed or were installed without grant and 21 were rejected because of unsatisfactory supplies.

There must inevitably be some risk in the use of small unchlorinated supplies, but when the new supply is installed every effort is made to eliminate such risks so far as is possible. One good feature is that the farms involved are so remote that it is doubtful if they could ever be supplied from a public main.

Refuse Collection

Collection is made as follows:—

Rhayader, Cwmdaiddwr and Elan Valley—twice weekly
Newbridge-on-Wye, Doldowlod, Llanyre, Crossgates,
Penybont and Nantmel—weekly

St. Harmon, Pantydwr, Nantgwyn, Bwlchysarnau,
Abbeycwmhir and Llangurig Road—fortnightly.

Refuse is now tipped at two places—at Newbridge-on-Wye and Nantmel.

Public Cemetery

The Council own a public cemetery, the entrance buildings which were completed recently include a mortuary, rest room and conveniences. The mortuary was designed so that autopsies may be performed.

7 interments took place in the year.

Public Conveniences

The Council have public conveniences at Rhayader, Cwmdaiddwr and the Cemetery, whilst the Birmingham Corporation have three conveniences in the area of the lakes.

Sewerage

There are modern plants at Newbridge-on-Wye and Crossgates whilst the new disposal plant for Rhayader will be ready in 1958.